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2023 Annual Report to Tioga County

January 30, 2024

In 2023, the Board of Elections saw a quieter year of elections. The staff in our office, both old and new, took advantage of many great learning opportunities and integrated them into our assignments. This created a better workflow which allowed us to effectively cross-train our staff. The 2024 election cycle will be daunting, and this time and education has us very prepared to handle all of it.

- Winter Conference
 - In January 2023, Commissioners Wahls and Layman presented on Streamlining Election Day Paperwork at the NYS Election Commissioners' Association Winter Conference, which generated interest throughout the state
- Staffing changes
 - Vacated position of Democratic Deputy Commissioner was filled by Amber Duke in June
 - Hired one new seasonal election worker for post-election recanvassing in November
 - Vacated position of PT Election Clerk was posted on the county website in November
 - Commissioner Lin Layman retired in the beginning of December, who was succeeded by her deputy Kelly Johnson
 - Hired James Hoover as Republican Deputy Commissioner in December
 - Began process of converting all election inspectors into county employees
 - Position of PT Voting Machine Technician was vacated in December and remains open for applications
- Upgrades to NTS voter registration software are ongoing and improving our database and reporting capabilities
- Local Primary Election held June 27th
 - A primary election was held only in Spencer for Council Member (unexpired term)
- Election Inspector recruitment was successful, and we were able to have many new inspectors in to work Early Voting to get acclimated ahead of

the primary and general elections. They will be more than ready to handle a full 2024!

- To highlight an example of interdepartmental cooperation, funding from the NYS Elections Cybersecurity Remediation Grant allowed the ITCS Dept. to contract with an outside vendor and conduct a thorough penetration test of our network; results from this test identified where ITCS can focus efforts to further strengthen Tioga County's network security
- General Election was November 7th
 - On the ballot was: State Supreme Court Justice, Sheriff, County Clerk, Coroner, various town offices and two statewide proposals
- Once again, the year was closed out with the passage of additional election reform laws
 - Early Vote by Mail was signed, to be effective January 1, 2024
 - Legislation was signed that will move most local elections to even years. This will take effect beginning in 2025
- 2024 Goals
 - In January, Dominion Election Management Software upgrade will be completed, and 9 new ICP2 scanners will be delivered while 8 old ICP scanners will be decommissioned.
 - Import jurisdiction boundary shapefiles to voter registration software to check that all voters are assigned to their correct districts
 - Improve our voter and inspector outreach via social media and reaching out to other departments in the county. Conduct presentations in schools to generate student interest in registering to vote and becoming poll workers.
 - Get a texting/email communication platform off the ground to distribute information and reminders, which can be utilized by other county departments as well
 - Keep our office fully staffed and trained and keep our database as close to perfect as possible for the 2024 presidential year!
 - Put ePollbooks online on Election Days. This will allow the office to improve communication with poll sites, keep informed of any issues and effectuate quicker resolutions, and produce voter turnout statistics in real time.